

REMARKS

In the December 5, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 pending in the application. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Applicant amends claims 1, 5 and 7. Support for the amended claims may be found in the originally filed specification, and thus, no new matter is added by this amendment. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-10 (3 independent claims; 10 total claims) remain pending in the application. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA"), in view of John L. Weston, UK Patent Application, GB 2174663A (hereinafter "Weston") and Ramaswamy et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,627,547, issued May 6, 1997 (hereinafter "Ramaswamy"). In addition, claims 4, 7, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA, in view of Weston and Ramaswamy, and further in view of Aerospace Engineering (December 1994, hereinafter "Aerospace Engineering"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claims 1, 5, and 7 recite a rotary knob "wherein said rotation of said knob corresponds to a **user specified alphanumeric value**." (emphasis added)) As noted by the Examiner (see Page 3 of the Office Action), AAPA and Weston fail to "teach that the knob is used to enter an alphanumeric." The Examiner asserts that Ramaswamy teaches "it is conventional for a rotary knob used to enter a specific alphanumeric value." In particular, the Examiner states "the knob (fig. 2 (16)) has to select an alphanumeric in order for the display to display alphanumeric/numeric (fig. 2 (34))." Applicant disagrees with Examiner's characterization of Ramaswamy.

Ramaswamy generally discloses a mapless GPS navigation system for use in a vehicle. Figure 2 of Ramaswamy illustrates the face plate 12B of a navigation system 10B. The face plate includes a rotary/pushbutton 16 to sequence through various menu selections (see col. 11, lines 19-67). That is, the Ramaswamy system allows the user to use the rotary button 16 to cycle through available menu selections, but the user **cannot specify a alphanumeric value** that is not one of the available menu selections.

Furthermore, Aerospace Engineering does not supply the missing elements of independent claims 1, 5, and 7. As noted by the Examiner, Aerospace Engineering is cited for generally disclosing using a cursor to select a desired parameter and for “suggesting that a joystick can also be used in an aircraft input device.” (see Page 4 of the Office Action) As Aerospace Engineering simply discloses an aircraft cursor control device that utilizes a cursor to select a parameter and that utilizes a joystick, Aerospace Engineering does not teach or suggest a rotary knob “wherein said rotation of said knob corresponds to a **user specified alphanumeric value.**”

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that each and every element of independent claims 1, 5 and 7 are not rendered obvious by AAPA in view of Weston and Ramaswamy or by AAPA in view of Weston and Ramaswamy and further in view of Aerospace Engineering. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a withdrawal to rejection of claims 1, 5, and 7 (and claims 2-4, 6, and 8-10 which variously depend from claims 1, 5 and 7) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, namely 1-10, fully comply with 35 U.S.C § 112 and are allowable over the art of record. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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